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Viewing cable 06NEWDELHI657,

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06NEWDELHI657**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06NEWDELHI657	2006-01-30 13:24	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy New Delhi

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1538397.ece>

VZCZCXRO6052
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHKUK RUEHMOS
DE RUEHNE #0657/01 0301324
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 301324Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9175
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9960
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 3066
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 3084
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5969
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 3728
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 6410
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2672
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1198
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0921
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 1919
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 2019
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 0158
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 2704
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8771
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0905
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 09 NEW DELHI 000657

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

USDOE FOR U/S DAVID GARMAN, DAS DPUMPHREY, RAJ LUHAR,
THOMAS CUTLER, STATE FOR EB/ESC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/30/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [ENRG](#) [EPET](#) [EMIN](#) [EAID](#) [MASS](#)
REF: A. NEW DELHI 166 B. NEW DELHI 165 C. 05 NEW DELHI 9343 D. 05 NEW DELHI 8809 E. 05 NEW DELHI 8507 F. STATE 1151
NEW DELHI 00000657 001.2 OF 009

Classified By: Ambassador David C. Mulford, for reasons 1.4 (B,D)

11. (C) Summary: The UPA's January 28 cabinet shuffle signifies a determination to ensure that US/India relations continue to move ahead rapidly.
12. (U) After our analytical paragraphs, this cable includes a full Cabinet list plus bios of new entrants. See paras number 17 and 18.

An Eventful Weekend

13. (U) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a major cabinet shuffle and President Kalam swore in the new members on January 29. Eighteen
NEW DELHI 00000657 002.2 OF 009

that there was a need to "accommodate MPs with a lot of talent.

The Aiyar Controversy

14. (C) Our Foreign Ministry contacts welcomed Aiyar's departure, commenting that his energy diplomacy had encroached on MEA turf too many times.
15. (C) Aiyar's dismissal as Petroleum Minister will leave MEA officials breathing easier, and put MEA back in charge of policy toward these energy-rich nations.
16. (C) Our contacts (protect) in the Government-owned Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) confirmed that Aiyar had vexed the PMO and MEA by pushing for a more
17. (C) Aiyar's replacement as Petroleum Minister, Murli Deora, is a stalwart supporter of stronger US-India ties, and one of the few high-profile
NEW DELHI 00000657 003.2 OF 009

non-partisan, industry-sponsored counterpart to the US Congress's India Caucus that advocates closer political and economic ties to the United States.

18. (C) One analyst at Petrowatch, an industry publication in Mumbai, noted that Aiyar's dismissal removes a powerful supporter of the Iran Pipeline.

The New Minister of Power

19. (C) The new Minister of Power, Sushil Kumar Shinde, a close political ally of Sonia Gandhi, fills the ministerial slot vacated by the death of
20. (C) The UPA Government appointed Shinde as Governor of Andhra Pradesh State after he led the Congress party to victory in the 2004 State Assembly elections.

NEW DELHI 00000657 004.2 OF 009

Caste in Solapur district. In 1971, he quit his job as a sub-inspector in the state police intelligence wing to run for and win a seat in Maharashtra. He was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Solapur. He was later elected as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council. He was also elected as a Member of the Lok Sabha from Solapur in 1980. He was later elected as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from Solapur in 1985. He was later elected as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council in 1990. He was later elected as a Member of the Lok Sabha from Solapur in 1995. He was later elected as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from Solapur in 2000. He was later elected as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council in 2005. He was later elected as a Member of the Lok Sabha from Solapur in 2010. He was later elected as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from Solapur in 2015. He was later elected as a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council in 2020. He was later elected as a Member of the Lok Sabha from Solapur in 2025.

11. (C) A vindicated Shibu Soren, was re-inducted into the Union Council of Ministers as Minister of Coal. The thickly-bearded tribal leader

12. (C) Coal now accounts for over 50% of India's power generation and is projected to remain at 52-55% for at least 20 years thereby requiring And Good News on Kashmir

13. (C) Another welcome addition to the cabinet is Kashmiri Congress Party Rajya Sabha member Saifuddin Soz, a long-standing contact of the FBI. Comment - A Boost to US Energy Interests

14. (C) Our initial assessment is that appointment of the

NEW DELHI 00000657 005.2 OF 009

three new energy ministers will boost USG interests by enhancing bilateral cooperation under the US/India Energy Dialogue (Reftel F) prior to And a pro-US Shift

15. (C) The Cabinet shuffle contained lots of good news for the USG, confirming the UPA government's determination to maintain rapid progress That Angers the Left

16. (C) The undeniable pro-American tilt of the Cabinet shuffle has infuriated the Left, which will view it as a throwing down of the gauntlet The New Cabinet

17. (U) After the Cabinet shuffle the current shape of the Cabinet is as follows:

Cabinet Ministers

Manmohan Singh--Prime Minister, External Affairs Pranab Mukherjee--Defense Arjun Singh--Human Resource Development Sharad Pawar--Agriculture, Fisheries

NEW DELHI 00000657 006.2 OF 009

Lalu Prasad Yadav--Railways Shivraj Patil--Home P Chidambaram--Finance Kamal Nath--Commerce & Industry Ram Vilas Paswan--Chemicals & Fertilizers Oscar Fernandes--No Portfolio allotted yet (new) GK Vasan-- Statistics & Program Implementation (new) Renuka Choudhury--Women & Child Development E Ahmed-- External Affairs Suresh Pachauri--Personnel, Parliamentary Affairs BK Handique--Chemicals & Fertilizers (previously defense) Mrs. J. Jayalalitha

NEW DELHI 00000657 007.2 OF 009

A Narendra--Rural Development Mohammed Ali Ashraf Fatimi--Human Resources Development R Velu--Railways SS Palaniamanickam--Finance S Regupathy--Bios of New Entrants

18. (C)(All Bios): Sushil Kumar Shinde - Minister for Power - A long time Congress party activist and Gandhi family loyalist, Shinde was the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Shibu Soren - Minister for Coal - Leader of the regional party Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Soren is considered to be the father of the JMM movement. AR Antulay - Minister for Minority Affairs - Another Gandhi family loyalist, Antulay is from Maharashtra and has been Chief Minister of the state of Maharashtra. V. V. Narasimha Murthy - Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs - Another old time party loyalist, Ravi is the first UPA Minister from Kerala, and his induction

NEW DELHI 00000657 008.2 OF 009

Murli Deora - Minister for Power - Long considered as a key fund raiser for Congress, Deora has been a parliamentarian for many years, as well as a leader of the Congress party. Ambika Soni - Minister for Tourism & Culture - Having cut her political teeth under the tutelage of Sanjay Gandhi, Soni is a long term Gandhi family loyalist. SIPDIS Always quick to defend the party and Sonia on any issue, Soni's induction into the cabinet is seen as a reward for her loyalty. Saifuddin Soz - Minister for Water Resources - A veteran parliamentarian from the Kashmir valley, Soz was environment minister in the Gujral government. GK Vasan - Minister of State for Statistics and Program Implementation - Son of the veteran Congress leader GK Mooppanar, Vasan is from Tamil Nadu. Pawan Kumar Bansal - Minister of State for Finance - A Congress MP from Chandigarh, Bansal is a long time party loyalist. He recently became a Minister. T Subbiram Reddy - No Portfolio - Another major fund raiser for the Congress party, Reddy is an industrialist and film producer. Known as the 'T. Subbiram Reddy'. Anand Sharma - External Affairs - A Congress spokesman, Sharma is a former President of the Youth Congress and a well-known Gandhi family loyalist. Ajay Maken - Urban Development - One of the younger MPs in the Lok Sabha, Maken is serving his first term. He was widely praised for his performance. M Pallam Raju - Defense - Educated at Temple University, Philadelphia, Raju is a Lok Sabha Member from Andhra Pradesh. A member of the house of

NEW DELHI 00000657 009.2 OF 009

back to India and joining politics. CS Sahu - Labor - A first time member of the Lok Sabha, Sahu has been in Congress politics for a long time, serving as Mayor of Behrampur, Orissa. Akhilesh Das - Steel - A member of the Rajya Sabha since 1996, Das is the publisher of a leading Hindi daily "Jansatta", and was Mayor of Lucknow. Jairam Ramesh - No portfolio - Along with Manmohan Singh, considered one of the leading members of the Congress Economics brain trust, Ramesh is a member of the Congress party. Ashwani Kumar - Industry - A long standing Rajya Sabha member, Kumar is another Gandhi family loyalist. He is a very successful Supreme Court lawyer. D Purandareswari - Human Resources Development - A Daughter of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao, Purandareswari is serving her first term. Dinsha Patel - No portfolio - A member of the Lok Sabha from Gujarat since 1996, Patel is a veteran Congressman. He was a member of the state

19. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website: (<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)

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